



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

October 21, 2003

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at
www.eere.energy.gov/femp/resources/insights.html.*

Weekly Summary

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

House

This week, the House has an abbreviated schedule because the chamber will recess on Wednesday, October 22 until Monday, October 27. One activity of interest has been scheduled:

- Introduce a Continuing Resolution bill to extend the appropriations process through at least November 7.

Senate

No scheduled activities of interest have been announced.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES

H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003 Conference committee consideration and vote on the bill has been delayed until the week of October 27. Originally, the House – Senate Conference Committee on *H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003* was expected to receive the conference report on Monday, October 20 and vote on the report before the end of the day. If the committee approved the report, the House was expected to vote on the bill on Tuesday, October 21, before recessing for the remainder of the week. However, after working through the weekend, Congressional staff and the Republican Leadership were unable to resolve all pending issues. Remaining contentious issues include tax incentives among some other provisions. Meanwhile, Democrats continued to express their concern that the minority has not had a chance to review any of the new titles before being presented to the committee. The Republican Leadership has agreed to provide the Democrats with a 24-hour advance review of the remaining titles before the provisions are made public. No specific date has been set for next week's conference committee review.

FY 2004 APPROPRIATIONS

FY 2004 Appropriations The House and Senate are preparing to pass a second continuing resolution (CR) bill to extend the operation of Federal programs through at least November 7. The current CR, *H. J. Res. 69*, expires on October 31. On Tuesday, October 21, the House is expected to introduce one or possibly two new CRs to keep the Federal Government operational. The reported strategy is for the first bill to extend the CR until November 7 or possibly later maintaining Federal programs at the FY 2003 funding level. The second bill, if introduced, would serve as an omnibus vehicle for the Senate to amend the House bills prior to going to conference with the House, thus speeding up the process for rolling the remaining bills into one bill.

Several bills are currently in conference between the House and Senate for reconciliation. Bills in or ready for conference include:

- *H.R. 3289/S. 1689 – FY 2003 Emergency Supplemental* (ready)
- *H.R. 2754/S. 1424 – Energy and Water Development* (in conference)

- *H.R. 2691/S. 1391 – Interior and Related Agencies* (in conference)
- *H.R. 2660/S. 1356 – Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education* (in conference)
- *H.R. 2559/S. 1383 – Military Construction* (in conference)

The Republican Leadership anticipates completing conference negotiations by October 31 on the four FY 2004 appropriations bills listed above. The remaining six FY 2004 bills may be organized into a single omnibus bill for passage before Congress adjourns for the year (Refer to Section III. Status of FY 2004 Appropriations Bills).

FY 2003 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations On October 17, both the House and Senate approved their respective bills (*H.R. 3289/S. 1689*). The bills provide funding primarily for activities associated with the war on terror and military and reconstruction support in Iraq and Afghanistan. Provisions of interest in the two bills are provided below.

HOUSE - *H. R. 3289*

Military Construction (*Domestic projects*)

- Army - \$65.2 million for facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel at Fort Monroe in Virginia (and planning and design projects world wide).
- Navy - \$45.530 million for facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel at the Naval Academy in Maryland and Lucas Hall at Quantico, Virginia.
- Air Force – Unspecified funding for projects at Dover Air Force Base.

Family Housing Operation and Maintenance (*Domestic projects*)

- Army - \$8.151 million for facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel at Fort Monroe and For Lee in Virginia.
- Navy and Marine Corps - \$6.280 million for facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel at various locations in Virginia and North Carolina.
- Air Force - \$6.81 million or facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance - \$43.0 million

SENATE - *S. 1689*

Military Construction (*Domestic projects*)

- Air Force - \$56 million for an airfreight terminal at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware

Family Housing Operation and Maintenance (*Domestic projects*)

- No funding specified for domestics projects.

Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance - \$60.5 million

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Legislation

Refer to [Section IV. New Legislation](#)

Summary of Hearings

No activities of interest to report.

SENATE

Legislation

Refer to [Section IV. New Legislation](#)

Summary of Hearings

No activities of interest to report.

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III. STATUS OF FY 2004 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

(In Millions)

HOUSE

SENATE

<i>Jurisdiction/ FY 2004 Budget Request</i>	<i>302(b) Allocations/ Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte. Mark Up</i>	<i>Floor Vote</i>	<i>Vote on Conf Rpt.</i>	<i>302(b) Allocations/ Approved Funding Level (New)</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte. Mark Up</i>	<i>Floor Vote</i>	<i>Vote on Conf. Rpt.</i>
Agriculture \$17,141	\$17,005	H.R. 2673	6/25	7/14		\$17,005	S. 1427	7/17		
Commerce \$37,685	\$37,914	H.R. 2799	7/16	7/23		\$37,014	S. 1585	9/4		
Defense \$371,698 P.L. 108-86	\$368,662	H.R. 2658	6/26	7/8	9/24	\$368,662	S. 1382	7/9	7/17	9/25
Energy and Water Development \$26,946	\$27,080	H.R. 2754	7/15	7/18		\$27,313	S. 1424	7/17	9/16	
Homeland Security \$27,481 P.L. 108-90	\$28,521	H.R. 2555	6/17	6/24	9/24	\$28,521	H.R. 2555	7/10	7/24	9/24
Interior \$19,552	\$19,627	H.R. 2691	6/25	7/17		\$19,627	S. 1391	7/10	9/23	
Labor / HHS \$137,990	\$138,046	H.R. 2660	6/25	7/10		\$137,601	S. 1356	6/26	9/10	
Military Construction \$9,237	\$9,196	H.R. 2559	6/17	6/26		\$9,196	S. 1357	6/26	7/11	
Transportation and Treasury \$27,802	\$27,502	H.R. 2989	7/24	9/9		\$27,502	S. 1589	9/4		
VA/HUD \$89,434	\$90,034	H.R. 2861	7/21	7/25		\$90,034	S. 1584	9/4		

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IV. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
H.R. 1442	No Short Title	3/26/03	Richard Pombo (R/CA)	Passed/agreed to in House
Authorizes design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.				

SENATE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
S. 1737	Gasoline Free Market Competition Act of 2003	10/15/03	Ron Wyden (D/OR)	Referred to Committee on the Judiciary
Amends the <i>Clayton Act</i> , to enhance the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent anticompetitive practices in tightly concentrated gasoline markets.				

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V. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

U.S. and Canadian Power Outage Task Force On October 17, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Canadian Minister of Natural Resources Herb Dhaliwal met to discuss investigative findings of the August 14 power blackout. While the task force has not yet released “any formal conclusions on the causes of the blackout,” Secretary Abraham stated that Phase 1 of the investigation will rely on collecting data and running computer simulations of the grid collapse. During Phase I, the task force is also assessing grid performance systems and equipment, engineering concerns, facility operations, and personnel, among other issues. An interim report will be released within the next two to three weeks, following the conclusion of Phase 1. According to Minister Dhaliwal, the report “will be highly complex. It is vital that what we release be of the highest quality.” Phase 2 will entail setting up public forums to obtain comments and recommendations. Secretary Abraham said, “We believe it is important to have maximum participation by the public as we consider the implications of our findings and formulate our recommendations.” The report is expected to result in policy initiatives in the U.S. and Canada, and support “improvements in infrastructure and operational processes at power companies and system operators that will minimize the chances of future blackouts and result in a more reliable and efficient electric delivery system.” A final report will be submitted to President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

In his remarks, Secretary Abraham also made the following comment:

Many entities are cooperating with the Task Force investigation, including the North American Electric Reliability Council, which recently issued guidelines for utility companies to follow to help ensure the reliability of transmission lines and supporting equipment. We support these guidelines as prudent steps to ensure reliability.

For further information, refer to the Department of Energy web site
www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=14311&BT_CODE=PR_HIGHLIGHTS&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

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VI. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

There are no hearings of interest to report.

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

There are no hearings of interest to report.

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

There are no hearings of interest to report.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

There are no hearings of interest to report.

HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND FLOOR VOTES

Date and Action Item	Topic	Location
<i>Week of October 20, 2003</i>	<i>H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act for 2003</i>	TBA
(1) Conference Committee Vote		
(2) House Vote on Conference Committee Report		

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